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Lung Surfactant Compositions

Abstract

5 A synthetic protein-free lung surfactant
composition is utilized to temporarily substitute
for natural lung surfactant in the mammalian lung
where such natural lung surfactant is absent or in
low concentration. The synthetic surfactant
10 composition consists essentially of a major amount
of 1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-3-glycerophosphoryl choline
(DPPC), and a minor amount of a fatty alcohol,
preferably a fatty alcohol having from 14 to 18
carbon atoms, and especially n-hexadecan-1-ol. The
15 synthetic surfactant composition is administered
directly into the lungs of a distressed subject to
create a film on the alveolar interfacial surfaces
and reduce surface tension. Expansion of the
alveolar spaces is thereby facilitated.

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